

Some years ago, the Congress established a Yellow Ribbon Program which is doing a good job, and the goal of that program is to educate people who come home from Iraq and Afghanistan about the services available to them. But we have not yet funded the kind of strong outreach effort that I believe we need where we are literally sending people out to National Guard families, especially maybe in rural areas, and making them understand that their problems are not unique, that there are services available to help them.

So outreach is the word here. We do it in Vermont in a very informal way, just person to person.

This amendment is \$20 million, and the offset comes from the \$126 billion in funds in title IX of the bill. It does not cut any one particular account. This \$20 million represents a fraction of 1 percent of the entire title.

So the issue here is that we have a serious problem with PTSD and TBI. I think it is terribly important that we do everything we can on a personal level to reach out to the families to get them the services they need. But, once again, you can have the greatest service in the world—I know we are trying. The Department of Defense is trying its best—but those services don't mean anything if veterans don't access them. So the goal is to get people into the services.

I would very much appreciate support for the Sanders-Dorgan amendment which will be coming up in a while.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

AMENDMENT NO. 2583 TO H.R. 3326

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, later today the Senate will vote on the McCain amendment No. 2583. This amendment would terminate funding for research and development of the Army's full-scale hypersonic test facility known as the MARIAH hypersonic wind tunnel.

The MARIAH Hypersonic Wind Tunnel Program is under development in Butte, MT. It is the Nation's only program to develop the wind tunnel technology required to test and evaluate new hypersonic missiles, space access vehicles, and other advanced propulsion technology, technology the Air Force says we will need.

MARIAH will be the first true air hypersonic wind tunnel program. The program has met its technical milestones and has not encountered significant setbacks. In fact, the Army Aviation Missile Command has given this project high marks. Here is what the Army has said:

This research has shown great potential to be used in a missile test facility and is the only technology shown to have any possibility of meeting the requirement for a Missile Scale Hypersonic Wind Tunnel.

The Army has asked the MARIAH Program to provide testing capabilities at speeds of up to Mach 12. This is the next generation of hypersonic flight,

something that has never been done before. To get to that capability, cutting-edge research and technologies are required.

The program already has provided very real and discernible benefits to both the scientific community as well as our armed services. There is no other facility in the world capable of meeting the performance requirements at Mach 8 and above.

According to a 2000 Air Force Science Advisory Board report, this type of testing will be needed for space access vehicles, global reach aircraft, and missiles that require air-breathing propulsion to reach speeds above Mach 8.

The MARIAH project has worked with Princeton University and Lawrence Livermore and Sandia National Laboratories to develop technologies and computer modeling that exists nowhere else in the world.

The team has achieved world records by reaching test pressures of over 200,000 psi.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. TESTER. I ask unanimous consent for additional time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

It also has developed one of the most powerful electron beams in the world.

Working with Sandia National Labs, MARIAH has developed a 1-megawatt electron beam to boost the energy supply needed to generate the enormous pressures required in a wind tunnel of this caliber.

It is the most powerful electron beam in the world, and its benefits can be applied well beyond this project to include shipboard missile defense, large-scale sterilization of food, mail and other items that could have a biohazard or bioweapon contaminant.

In conjunction with Princeton University, MARIAH has successfully developed three-dimensional computational fluid dynamic computer models capable of simulating the previously unexplored physics necessary for the Mach 8 and above conditions.

This is groundbreaking research that must be done before any missile, rocket or aircraft can be tested at hypersonic speeds.

Why does this matter? Why do we care about hypersonic capabilities?

The answer is foreign competition and foreign capabilities.

We know that Russia, China, and others are aggressively developing a new type of missile that is believed to be too fast for U.S. missile defense systems that are either planned or in use.

In particular, the India-Russia joint venture BrahMos is now engaged in laboratory testing of supersonic cruise and antiship missiles capable of speeds in excess of Mach 5.

According to the Air Force Research Labs' report of April 2009 entitled "Ballistic and Cruise Missile Threats":

Russian officials claim a new class of hypersonic vehicle is being developed to allow Russian strategic missiles to penetrate missile defense systems.

That report is referring to comments made by the commander of the Russian rocket forces who said last December that "By 2015 to 2020 the Russian strategic rocket forces will have new complete missile systems . . . capable of carrying out any tasks, including in conditions where an enemy uses anti-missile defense measures." This is a direct reference to hypersonic capabilities.

And yet some have said our military does not need this technology.

But when it comes to figuring out how to defeat this potential threat, I believe we should look into the future, not look back at reports that are 5 or 10 years old.

This project is about seeing a potential threat to our national defense looming on the horizon and finding a way to defeat it. It is vital to our national security.

I urge my colleagues to reject the McCain amendment.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3326, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Coburn amendment No. 2565, to ensure transparency and accountability by providing that each Member of Congress and the Secretary of Defense has the ability to review \$1,500,000,000 in taxpayer funds allocated to the National Guard and Reserve components of the Armed Forces.

Barrasso amendment No. 2567, to prohibit the use of funds for the Center on Climate Change and National Security of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Franken amendment No. 2588, to prohibit the use of funds for any Federal contract with Halliburton Company, KBR, Inc., any of their subsidiaries or affiliates, or any other contracting party if such contractor or a subcontractor at any tier under such contract requires that employees or independent contractors sign mandatory arbitration clauses regarding certain claims.

Franken (for Bond/Leahy) amendment No. 2596, to limit the early retirement of tactical aircraft.

Franken (for Coburn) amendment No. 2566, to restore \$166,000,000 for the Armed Forces to prepare for and conduct combat operations, by eliminating low-priority congressionally directed spending items for all operations and maintenance accounts.

Sanders/Dorgan amendment No. 2601, to make available from Overseas Contingency Operations \$20,000,000 for outreach and reintegration services under the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.